



26. del.

W. P. Sharlock sculp.

ANTONIUS WOOD ANTIQUARIUS,

Ob. 28. Nov. 1^o 1695. Æt. 64.

Published by W^m Smith, 23. Lisle Street, Leicester Square.



26. del.

W. P. Sharlock sculp.

ANTONIUS WOOD ANTIQUARIUS,

Ob. 28. Nov. 1^o 1695. Æt. 64.

Published by W^m Smith, 23. Lisle Street, Leicester Square.

THE
L I F E

OF

Mr. *ANTHONY a* WOOD, *R*

HISTORIOGRAPHER

Of the most Famous

Univerſity of OXFORD.

With an Account of his Nativity,
Education, Works, &c.

*Inſpicere tanquam in ſpeculum vitas
omnium jubeo, atque ex aliis ſumere
exemplum Tibi. Terent.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for the Author. 1711.

The LIFE of
Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

TO deliver down to Posterity, Men Famous in their several ages, either for Learning, Piety, or any other Excellencies, has been the care of all civiliz'd Nations, as well Heathens as Christians; for as the *Babylonians* had their publick Archives, so had the *Egyptians* their Hieroglyphicks, the *Romans* their *Pontifices Maximi*, the Primitive Christians their *Acta Martyrum*, and our own Nation has been no way careless or ingrateful in this particular, if we consider but one instance of it in the Lives of our Monarchs, wrote by the Monks of *St. Albans*, and the Lives of many of our Prelates, Statesmen, Historians, &c. the particulars of which would be needless to enumerate. We should be indeed ingrateful, should we not recommend their Memories to our Successors, who have been burning and shining Lamps in their times; but more particularly unjust would it be, to pass by those in the common Croud and Multitude of Men, who have immortaliz'd Others and honour'd the Places of their Nativity and Education, and neither encourage them whilst they live, nor preserve their Memories when dead. If any deserve Immortality here below, these have the chief claim, and ought to stand fairest for it.

Amongst whom I hope it may not be improper to place our *Oxford* Historiographer, Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, who was Born in *Oxford* over-against *Merton* Colledge, *December 17th, S. Lazarus's Day, 1632.* his Father's Name was *Thomas*, LL.B. of *Pembroke* Colledge in *Oxford*,

2 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

Oxford, descended from the ancient Family of the *Wood's* in *Lancashire*, and a Benefactor to the Building of the Schools, according to the (a) following words in the Register. *Thomas Wood Artium Baccalaureus, quondam Aulae Lateportensis donavit decem libras, postea L.L. Bacc.* He was Fined in *Octob.* 1630. for refusing the Honour of Knighthood, and died much lamented by all his Relations and Friends, *Jan.* 19. 1642.

Mr. *Wood's* Mother was his second Wife, being *Mary* the Daughter of *Robert Pettie* of *Wyfald* near *Henley* in *Com. Oxon.* Gent. who was a younger Son of *John Pettie* of *Yetsworth Com. Oxon.* Esq; I might here enlarge my account of his Family, of his Brothers, two of which were afterwards remarkable in the World, &c. which as foreign to the purpose I omit.

After being instructed in Grammaticals, partly in *New Colledge School*, and partly at *Thame Free-School*, in *Com. Oxon.* Founded by *John Lord Williams* of *Thame*, under the Tuition of *William Burt*, A. M. (afterwards S. T. D. and Warden of *Winchester Colledge*,) where he was observed to be very diligent in his Studies, rose early, always of a retir'd disposition, given much to thinking, and addicted to Melancholy.

Hence was he removed to *Oxford* (his Mother's affairs being much lessened by a sad Fire) where he was Matriculated a Member of that University as a Gentleman's Son, *May* 26. 1647. and under the Tuition of his Brother *Edward a Wood* of *Trinity Colledge*, till on *Octob.* 18. 1647. he was admitted into *Merton Colledge* as Post-Master to Mr. *Edward Copley* Fellow of that House.

In 1648. The Visitors appointed by the Rump-Parliament sitting in the Lodgings of Sir *Nathan Brent* Warden of *Merton*, where the Members of each Colledge were summoned to appear, and give in a positive

(a) Nomina & cognomina eorum qui ad construendam novarum Scholarum fabricam, vel pecunias numeratas, vel aliud aliquod munificentiae genus subministrarunt. Apr. 1. 1615.

Answer, whether they would submit to them, or their Visitation, as appointed by Parliament, or not?

On Friday, May 12. the Members of *Merton Colledge* appeared, among whom Mr. *Wood* was asked, Whether he would submit &c. ? to which he gave the following answer, and wrote it down in a Paper, viz.

I do not understand the business, and therefore am not able to give a direct answer.

This had liked to have ruined him, had not the intercession of his Mother prevailed on Sir. *Nath. Brent*, the Warden, and got him kept in and connived at, though he generously scorned to prostitute his Conscience, even to get a Maintenance. Here was he, first, under the Tuition of his Brother Mr. *Edward a Wood*, lately elected Probationer-Fellow of *Merton Coll.* and afterwards under *Clinton Maund*, A.M. (descended from the *Maund's* of *Chesterton*, near *Bicester*,) Fellow of the same Colledge.

In the beginning of the Year 1650. he was made one of the Bible-Clerks by the favour of Sir *Nath. Brent*, for the following Reasons. (1) Because the Visitors questioned the right of Presentation to the Post-Masters places by the Fellows. (2) Because a Clerk's place was at that time better than the Post-Masters: And as it afterwards happen'd, the Removal was lucky, there being 12 Post-Masters expell'd Jan. 16. following, at which time he would have received his *Quietus*.

In 1651. we find a Copy of Verses under Mr. *Wood's* Name, on one *Anne Green*, a Servant Maid, hang'd in the Castle Yard at *Oxon*, for Murdering her Bastard-Child, and brought again to Life by some young Physicians, by whom she was to have been Anatomized.

On this Foundation he continued till July 6. 1652. (a) when he took his first degree in Arts; and in 1653.

(a) In Museo Ant. a Wood, E 6. 4to. Admissi ad lectionem alicujus facultatis Artium Logices Aristotelis, vel admissiones Artium Bacca- laureorum — 1652. Jul. 6. Georg. Abdy quosdam term. in Acad. Cantab. in Stud. Dialect. complevit. Jac. Bricknell, Anton. a Wood, Coll. Mert.

4 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

was entred into the publick Library, which (according to his own words) he looked upon as the Happiness of his Life, and into which he never entred without great Veneration; where he was mostly conversant with the Books of English History and Antiquities, among which lighting on Mr. *Burton's Description of Leicestershire*, he was very much delighted with the performance, and collected Notes from it (a). Also in reading any Books of Heraldry, as that by *John Guillim*, and other Books of that faculty writ by *John Bossewell*, *John Ferne*, &c. as his natural Genius directed him. Here was he taken notice of by Dr. *Thomas Barlow*, then chief Librarian, for his conversing with Books not used by the common Students, who expressed great kindness towards him, and offered him his assistance. To divert himself after his severe and close application to Study, he now began to entertain himself with learning to play on the Violin.

In 1655. Mr. *Edward a Wood*, being elected Junior Proctor of this University, appointed him his Collector in *Augustines*, an Office which he continued in till he was A.M. on December 17. (being his Birth-day) 1655. (b) this I particularly mention, because his Enemies have had the Impudence to calumniate him as a pretender to that Degree, which he was never honoured with, though as a Confirmation of this, I have been assured of its veracity by a Person of an unexceptionable Character, then present.

During this time of the grand Rebellion, and Usurpation the fatal consequence, he behaved himself quietly, giving himself wholly up to the Study of Antiquities with great industry; and so much was he delighted with Books of Antiquities, that upon reading the *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, by Sir *Will. Dugdale*, (the best Book of its kind that ever was publish'd) he

(a) In Musæo Anton. a Wood, D. 19. MS.

(b) Catal. MSS. Impress. XLV. E. 29. 4^{to}. Licentiati ad incipiendum in Artibus, vel admissi in Artium Magistrorum. 1655. Decemb. 17. Ant. a Wood, Guil. Staves Coll. Merton.

thus expresses himself, *My Pen cannot enough describe, how my tender Affections, and insatiable Desire of Knowledge, were ravished and melted down by the reading of that Book. What by Musick, and rare Books of this sort that I found in the Library, my Life at this time was a perfect Elysium.*

This Year commenced (if I may so say) with the practical part of his Study, he now beginning to survey and describe the Monumental Inscriptions and Arms in the several Parochial-Churches and Colledge-Chapels within the University and City of *Oxford*; and the next Year he travelled over the rest of the County adjoining, for the same purpose. By this and his unwearied searching MSS. Ancient and Modern, he became serviceable to the learned World, and was no inconsiderable assistant to the learned Authors of the *Monasticon Anglicanum*; to whom, and their noble Work, he bore so great a respect, as to transmit to them the Copies of many Evidences hereafter enumerated, particulariz'd in the 3d Vol. as those 4. inserted in page 11. concerning *Wallingford*; Eleven others in page 13, 14, 15. concerning *Littlemore-Nunnery*, within the Precincts of *Sandford* in *Oxfordshire*, (which by a mistake Sir *William Dugdale* hath added to *Sandford* in *Berkshire*.) Three Copies of Charter in pag. 78. concerning the Hermitage of *Muswell* in the Parish of *Piddington*. Four Copies in page 30, 31. concerning *Horkesley*, a Cell to the Abby of *Tefford*. The Six Copies mentioned in page 55, 56, 57. concerning the Priory of *Cold-Norton* in *Oxfordshire*. The Twelve Copies in page 62, 63, 64. concerning the Lands belonging to the Knight-Templars of *Sandford* near to, and in the County of *Oxon*, which he transcribed from a Lieger-book, (now in the *Bodleian Library*) containing all the Evidences belonging to the Præceptory of *Sandford*; That Copy in page 77. concerning *Otteham-Priory*. Those Copies of Charters in page 83, 84, 85. concerning the Hospital of *Brackley* in *Northampton-shire*. That Charter in page 96. concerning the Hospital of
Ginges

6 The Life of Mr. Anthony a Wood, &c.

Ginges in Essex, otherwise called Gyngé-Mounteygne. That large Charter concerning the Priory of Newington-Longaville in Bucks, and many others, which I shall pass by with the following Character in the Preface to the 3d. Vol. of the Monasticon. Favore attamen Antonii Wood, Mertonensis Collegii Alumno, in rebus antiquis apprime periti, Suppetias non minimas, uti gratitanter agnosco, habui.

In 1653 Mr. Wood set his Hand, and gave his consent to a Petition drawn up to present to the Parliament against standing Visitors of the University, forwarded by *Nathan Crew*, A.M. and then Fellow of *Lincoln Coll.* (now the worthy Bishop of *Durham*).

In 1659. the Library of the Great *Selden*, being by the favour of his Executors transmitted to the *Bodleian*, who was thought so proper, and who so well versed in Books, to put them into Order and Rank, by Mr. *The. Barlow*, as his Friend Mr. *Wood*.

In 1673. When the Lord *Fairfax's MSS.* in number about 122. deposited in the *Bodleian* Library in a moist season, were near spoil'd, Mr. *Wood* procured leave of the Vice-Chancellor to have them conveyed into the *Muniment-Room* in the School Tower, to dry them on the Leads adjoining, which cost him no less than a Months trouble. Yet such was his respect to the *Manes* of Mr. *Dodsworth*, to whom these *MSS.* once belonged; such was his great care to preserve whatever might advantage the Common-wealth of Learning, and more particularly of that kind, wherein he was so accurately vers'd.

The first product of his Labours and generous Studies was the *History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford*, which being wrote in *English* in his *Juvenile* Years, (and in an unpolished stile) it pleas'd the Heads of this University (particularly Dr. *Fell*) to have it turn'd into *Latin* (which was done by Mr. *Peers*, L.L.B. and Mr. *Wase, Esq;* Bedles of the *University*, &c.) that the Learned World might be acquainted with the Antiquity, Honour, and Glory thereof. It was a Book of

8 Years

8 Years indefatigable Labour, and all, or most part of it, extracted from the very Bowels of Antiquity, as the many Quotations from Records and MSS. in every Page fully demonstrate. It was stiled, according to its Desert, by no mean Judge of Books, (a) *Liber aureolus plurimo labore, nec minori judicio consignatus, &c.* After the Book was finish'd, the Curators of the *Sheldonian* Press, viz. Sir *Leol. Jenkins*, Sir *Jos. Williamson*, *John Fell*, D.D. *Tho. Tate*, D.D. Dedicated it to his Majesty *K. Charles II.* to whom being presented at *Windsor*, in *July 1674.* by *Rich. Allestree*, D.D. then Provost of *Eaton Colledge*, His Majesty was graciously pleas'd to Accept of it, to turn over several Parts thereof, and hold some Conference about it, with that *Learned Doctor*. Soon after, the Heads of the *University of Oxford* agreed, that as many Copies as were worth 80 Pounds, should be presented to the Great Persons of the Royal Court, of the Clergy, and of the Law. And afterwards it was presented, in the Name of the said University; To the Most Illustrious Prince, *John William*, Prince of *Neoburg*, when he was Entertain'd by the Members thereof, in the beginning of *June, 1675.* To the Most Illustrious Prince, *Cosmo de Medices*, the Great Duke of *Tuscany*; To whom the said Book was sent, by a Decree of the Venerable Convocation of Doctors, and Masters, held on *October 7. 1675.* and with it a *Latin* Letter, penn'd by the Publick Orator, then the Ingenious and Learned *Robert South*, D.D. wherein a Just and Laudable Character was given of the said Book, as it appears in the Register of the Acts of that Convocation. To omit many other Noble Personages to whom this Book was presented: these I believe are sufficient to show what Value, Esteem, and Credit this University had for the Work, and its Worthy Author. Notwithstanding all this Respect paid to his Work, he

(a) *Lloydius in Diction. Historic. Geograph. Poet. &c. Lond. Fol. 1670. Column, 2. in voce Oxon.*

8 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

us'd to think himself not dealt with altogether so fairly as he desir'd, which he express'd afterwards in Print; some of which Expressions are to be seen in his subsequent Works (a). Many Passages inserted and omitted, which he so frequently complains of, may be view'd by any Curious Person, in his Study (b), mark'd, corrected, and very much alter'd by himself, with Additions, Alterations, and Emendations, sent him by his intimate Friend, that Learned Antiquary, and General Scholar, Mr. *William Fulman* (c), sometime Fellow of *Corpus Christi Colledge*, and afterwards *Vicar of Meissey-Hampton* in *Gloucestershire*.

In the Year 1684. he lost his Generous and True Friend, Mr. *Ralph Sheldon* of *Beoly*, in *Worcestershire*, at whose Seat he was frequently, and who was a great Assistant to, as well as Encourager of his Studies, as may be partly seen by various Collections (d) made by him, and given to his Friend. He was an Honest and Good Man, of remarkable Integrity, Charitable to the last Degree, and a munificent Favourer of Learning and Learned Men. At his Death he committed to Him, the charge of sorting and putting in order his Papers, being well appriz'd of his Ability, as appears by the following Paragraph of his last Will (e). *Item, To my good Friend and fellow Antiquary, Mr. Anthony a Wood of Merton Colledge, Oxon. I give 40 Pounds, desiring him to see my old Pedigrees, and all my MSS. and other Papers (except what are written with my own Hand-writing) to be deliver'd into the Herald's Office, that they be put in a Cupboard, apart from others.*

The other Works Mr. *Wood* has oblig'd the World with, are the *Athenæ & Fasti Oxon. Or, an Account of the Lives, Characters, Deaths, &c. of all the Learned Men bred in the University of Oxford: Folio, 2 Vol.*

(a) *Athen. Oxon.* Vol. 1 p. 490. Vol. 2. p. 481, 605, 625, &c.

(b) Among the printed Books, No. 430.

(c) Quarto, D. 9. MSS. (d) C. 10. 4to MS.

(e) In the Will-Office at Doctors-Commons, London.

The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c. 9

printed at London, 1691, 1692. These Books were at first wrote partly in the *Latin* Tongue, but upon mature Consideration printed by Subscriptions in *English*. They commence with the Year 1500, and continue to 1690. In these Two Books are contain'd the most compendious and exact Account of the Affairs of the University of Oxford, yet extant; particularly in the Second Volumn you will find (as an Ingenious Author (a) handsomely expresses it) a great deal of the Mystery of Iniquity acted in that dismal Rebellion, which was commenc'd by the Puritans, and other Factionous Persons, Anno 1642. opened and display'd. It shews how these Brethren were common preachers up of Treason and Rebellion, how their Pulpits were deem'd by observing Men, the Chairs of Juglers: That Blasphemies, Prophaneations, Absurdities, &c. were vented by them daily in their Extemporary Prayers and Sermons, to the great blinding and misleading of the People. It shews how the Men of those Times did turn themselves, and overturn all things, meerly for private Gain and Interest: It shews also the instability of others, who then swore and forswore for their own ends; made Religion a stalling Horse, and of Sacred Oaths, no more than Common Knights of the Post. Therein you'll find many Passages relating to the Life and Actions of that blessed Martyr, King Charles I. especially for the Two last Years of his Reign, never before publish'd, and the Intrigues of many of the Leading Men on the Rebels side, that were carried on in bringing that Pious Prince to the Block. Therein you'll find a great and generous Sence of Loyalty in the Author; and from his Pen, just and Impartial Characters of the true and suffering Sons of the Church of England; as also Impartial Accounts of the adverse Party; mostly taken from their own Books and Sermons written by the Brethren, or Royal Party. The Reader may find also therein the just Characters of many of the Nobility and Gentry, that adhered to the afore-

(a) *A Vindication of the Historiographer of Oxford, and his Works*, &c. Lond. 1623.

us'd to think himself not dealt with altogether so fairly as he desir'd, which he express'd afterwards in Print; some of which Expressions are to be seen in his subsequent Works (a). Many Passages inserted and omitted, which he so frequently complains of, may be view'd by any Curious Person, in his Study (b), mark'd, corrected, and very much alter'd by himself, with Additions, Alterations, and Emendations, sent him by his intimate Friend, that Learned Antiquary, and General Scholar, Mr. *William Fulman* (c), sometime Fellow of *Corpus Christi Colledge*, and afterwards *Vicar of Meisey-Hampton* in *Gloucestershire*.

In the Year 1684. he lost his Generous and True Friend, Mr. *Ralph Sheldon* of *Beoly*, in *Worcestershire*, at whose Seat he was frequently, and who was a great Assistant to, as well as Encourager of his Studies, as may be partly seen by various Collections (d) made by him, and given to his Friend. He was an Honest and Good Man, of remarkable Integrity, Charitable to the last Degree, and a munificent Favourer of Learning and Learned Men. At his Death he committed to Him, the charge of sorting and putting in order his Papers, being well appriz'd of his Ability, as appears by the following Paragraph of his last Will (e). *Item, To my good Friend and fellow Antiquary, Mr. Anthony a Wood of Merton Colledge, Oxon. I give 40 Pounds, desiring him to see my old Pedigrees, and all my MSS. and other Papers (except what are written with my own Hand-writing) to be deliver'd into the Herald's Office, that they be put in a Cupboard, apart from others.*

The other Works Mr. *Wood* has oblig'd the World with, are the *Athenæ & Fasti Oxon. Or, an Account of the Lives, Characters, Deaths, &c. of all the Learned Men bred in the University of Oxford: Folio, 2 Vol.*

(a) *Athen. Oxon. Vol. 1. p. 490. Vol. 2. p. 481, 605, 625, &c.*

(b) *Among the printed Books, No. 430.*

(c) *Quarto, D. 9. MSS. (d) C. 10. 4to MS.*

(e) *In the Will-Office at Doctors-Commons, London.*

printed at London, 1691, 1692. These Books were at first wrote partly in the *Latin* Tongue, but upon mature Consideration printed by Subscriptions in *English*. They commence with the Year 1500, and continue to 1690. In these Two Books are contain'd the most compendious and exact Account of the Affairs of the University of Oxford, yet extant; particularly in the second Volumn you will find (as an Ingenious Author (a) handsomely expresses it) a great deal of the Mystery of Iniquity acted in that dismal Rebellion, which was commenc'd by the Puritans, and other Factious Persons, Anno 1642. opened and display'd. It shews how these Brethren were common preachers up of Treason and Rebellion, how their Pulpits were deem'd by observing Men, the Chairs of Juglers: That Blasphemies, Prophaneations, Absurdities, &c. were vented by them daily in their Extemporary Prayers and Sermons, to the great blinding and misleading of the People. It shews how the Men of those Times did turn themselves, and overturn all things, meerly for private Gain and Interest: It shews also the instability of others, who then swore and forswore for their own ends; made Religion a stalking Horse, and of Sacred Oaths, no more than Common Knights of the Post. Therein you'll find many Passages relating to the Life and Actions of that blessed Martyr, King Charles I. especially for the Two last Years of his Reign, never before publish'd, and the Intrigues of many of the Leading Men on the Rebels side, that were carried on in bringing that Pious Prince to the Block. Therein you'll find a great and generous Sence of Loyalty in the Author; and from his Pen, just and Impartial Characters of the true and suffering Sons of the Church of England; as also Impartial Accounts of the adverse Party; mostly taken from their own Books and Sermons written by the Brethren, or Royal Party. The Reader may find also therein the just Characters of many of the Nobility and Gentry, that adhered to the afore-

(a) *A Vindication of the Historiographer of Oxford, and his Works*, &c. Lond. 1623.

said incomparably Pious Prince, when he was at Oxford, and much of History to that most wicked and barbarous Rebellion; there are also many other bold and undeniable Truths, which treading too close on the heels of Time, several Persons (whose Relations had been Actors in, or Submitters to the Men, in the said unparallel'd Rebellion) have endeavour'd to make them Abuses and Libels, thereby to bring the Author into trouble. And so furious were some against him, that (as I am well assur'd) he was miserably sometimes us'd by them, being frequently Attack'd and having Letters of Advice sent him with Expressions, such as these, *It will be well if he 'scape with His Life.* And so apprehensive at last was he of danger himself, that he went privately Arm'd in his own Defence. These Books have afforded Matter for many eminent Writers, whether Domestick or Foreign, who have made Honourable mention of it, and its Author as those who are Bookish-men, who have frequently stil'd it (a choice Treasure of Antiquities) do know very well.

Of this Book take the following Character from the *Acta Eruditorum* an. 1692. p 35. *Anonymus laboriosissimæ operis autor est Antonius Wood vir multæ variæque lectionis, ac ex Historia & Antiquitatibus Universitatis Oxoniensis, Latino Sermone è Theatro Sheldoniano an. 1674. editis in Republica literaria percelebris. Hic Joannis Lelandi, Joannis Balei, Joannis Pitsei, Francisci Godwini, aliorumque minoris famæ Historicorum studium, eruditos clarosque suæ gentis viros oblivione posterorum vindicandi, non feliciter tantum æmulatus est sed & si quid judicamus, non perfunctorie superavit, tum rerum copia, tum modestia erga diversæ religionis homines, quam in Baleo magnopere desiderat, tum denique diligenti allegatione authorum, per quos profecit, qua parte notandus venit Pitseus, qui quoties Lelandum testem laudat, Baleum exscribit, hunc tamen, ceu hæreticum, nominare non audet, cum nihilominus extra dubium ponatur Woodo nostro, neque illi, neque ulli Pontificiorum accessum, dum viveret is, patuisse ad Lelandi Manuscripta.*

The next place we find him mentioned in, is in the *King's Visitatorial Power asserted by Dr. Johnston*, writ on the account of the King's dispensing with the Statutes of *Magdalen Colledge, Oxon.* He was consulted on the History of *Walter Haddon, L.L.D.* who being bred in the *University of Cambridge*, and taking his Degrees there, and so was neither of the Foundation of *New Colledge*, or of *Magdalen Colledge*, whereof he ought to have been a Member, according to the Founder's Statutes; Yet King *Edward VI. Anno 1552. 5^o Regni*, by his Mandate commanded him to be elected President, which after some Remonstrances by the Fellows, was accordingly perform'd. (To this says Dr. *Johnston*) *Mr. Wood, who compil'd the Learned and Laborious History of the Antiquities of that University, (Oxford)* return'd me this Answer.

Sir,

When I perus'd Magdalen Colledge Registers, A.B.C. &c. in order to the drawing up the History of that House, I did not in the least dream what would come to pass relating to the Office and Election of a President; otherwise I should have collected all, and consequently have been more full in the matter.

What I have said of Dr. Haddon was from several Commendatory and Mandatory Letters, and Answers to them in the Register E, all which being by me perus'd, and finding them very tedious to recount, I only made mention of them in General, and have not so much as a Docquet of them by me, &c.

Jun. 2^d 1688.

A. WOOD.

The next Stage of Action we find him in, was the most unfortunate as well as fatal Transaction of his Life, he being in 1693. prosecuted by the Earl of *Rocheſter*, for abusing his Father, the Earl of *Clarendon*, which I shall neither Justify, nor Censure, but refer you to the Proceedings against him, to be seen among the Acts of the Vice-Chancellor's Court; when, according to the Sen-

(Clarendon)

Sentence pass'd on him, a Sheet or Two of the *Athena Oxonienses* were burnt privately, (with none of that Pomp and Ceremony, so particularly mention'd in the *London Gazette*) on the backside of the *Theater*, in the presence of but Two or Three Persons, and the Author Expell'd the University till he should Recant, which he could never be perswaded to do; but on the contrary, us'd to assert positively, that those Paragraphs he was Censur'd for, could be easily prov'd from the printed Papers of those Days, which I shall no ways insist on; though I very much fear he took some Accounts from disgusted Cavaliers. All I shall say further on this Head, shall be from a Pamphlet just publish'd after this Accident, in which was the following Remarkable Passage, concerning the old Earl of *Clarendon* (a). *My Lord Chancellor Clarendon, was most certainly a Brave, a Loyal, and a Wise, but Unfortunate Statesman. His Country, I mean the more Knowing Part, will always mention Him with Gratitude and Honour: But that he had all the Vertues of a Perfect Hero, it is ridiculous to pretend to allow it.*

After the aforementioned Sentence was pass'd on him, he took little notice of the Censure, threw off his Gown, studying in the Publick Library; always very much honour'd, and that not undeservedly, by that University, whose Honour he had so much advanc'd (tho' at last depriv'd of its Privileges).

In 1694. I find him gratefully mention'd by the Learned Mr. *Wharton*, for sending him a Piece publish'd by *Prinne*, that *Arch-Rebel*, entituled, *Rome's Master-Piece*, with Annotations on it made by Arch-Bishop *Laud*, then in the *Tower of London*, and transmitted (according to the Words of my (b) Author) *by the Learned*

(a) *An Appendix to the Life of Seth Ward, Bishop of Sarum, in a Letter to the Author, London. 1697.*

(b) *History of the Life and Troubles of William Laud, Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, writ by himself; and publish'd in Folio, by Mr. Henry Wharton, in 1695.*

The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c. 13

Antiquary, Mr Anthony Wood, who had it of Dr. Richard Bayly. President of St. John's Colledge in Oxford, in order to be placed among the other Papers and Memorials, which are to follow his History, according to the Arch-Bishop's own Direction.

The next place we find our Author in, is in *Westminster-Hall*, (in a Tryal betwixt *Magdalen Colledge* and the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, concerning the Right of Presentation of a Principal to *Magdalen Hall* adjoyning) brought in as an Evidence to prove the building of the School adjoyning, by a Register of the Year 1458, which he Depos'd he had perus'd near 20 Years before.

Thus Respected by the Learned World, our Author liv'd till the latter end of 1695, at which time he fell into a sharp Distemper, viz. a suppression of Urine, in which he behaved himself like a Christian Philosopher, and with an unusual Indifferency, whether he liv'd or dy'd. Most of the time of his Sickness (which was about 17 Days) he was continually sorting of his Papers, and laying aside what he thought fit to destroy. One remarkable Instance of his Contempt of Death I must not pass by, which was this: He being in Company with some of his Friends, suddenly rose from his seat, and, with some earnestness, told them, that *He very well knew he was a dead Man, and that though he had but a few Days to live, he was then able* (striking his Cane with no small force on the Floor) *to Cane any Man who should dare tell him he was so.* His Industry was even then so indefatigable, that through intenseness of Study and Writing, so much Blood would burst out from his Nose, that a Bason was held under him as he might not injure his Papers. He profess'd he Died in the Communion of the Church of *England*, and took the Sacrament, as appears by the following Memorandum, taken from the *Athenæ Oxonienses*, in the Hands of the Reverend *Arthur Charlette*, D.D. the Worthy Master of *University Colledge*.

14 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

Memorandum, That Mr. Anthony a Wood told Mr. Martin, several times before his Sickness, that he intended to receive the Sacrament at his Hands, in the Church of Wightham, the following Christmas.

That, during his Sickness, he was almost constantly attended by Mr. Martin, Mr. Biss, &c. who can Certify, that he always desir'd the Church of England's Prayers, which he had constantly read to him twice a Day, for the last Week of his Sickness, that he desir'd the Sacrament to be given him by Mr. Martin, that he himself particularly order'd that it should be inserted in his Will, which was made three or four Days before his Death, that he Died in the Communion of the Church of England, as by Law establish'd: That there was no Papist, or reputed Papist, that visited him during his last Sickness.

This was the State of his Sickness, which put an end to his Life *November 28. 1695.* the next Day he was Buried in the North-part of the Outer-Chapel of *Merton Coll.* next to the North-Door, near the Graves of his Family; and some time after was a small Marble Monument erected over his Grave, against the Wall, by *Thomas Rowney Esq;* with the following Epitaph, short indeed of his Merits and Reputation, though his Works will be his everlasting Memorial; and over it are these Arms; Or, a *Wolf passant*, and a *Chief, Sab.*

H. S. E.

ANTONIUS WOOD
ANTIQUARIUS

Ob. 28. Nov. Anno

1695. Ætat. 64.

By his Will he left his printed Books and MSS. to the University of *Oxford*, to be placed in a Room in the *Museum*: A third Volume, not finish'd, of the *Athene Oxon.* he gave to the ingenious Author of the *Notitia Mo-*

Monastica (a) (which had he lived to have completed, he designed to Print in *Holland*, because of the ill Usage, he frequently complain'd, he had met with here) upon condition that he should Print it hereafter, no Person being better qualify'd, and *par negotio*, than he was. To him in his last Sickness he committed the care of Burning a large heap of Papers, when he found him self Recovered and just departing, which he did to his Satisfaction, while he approved it by moving his hands, as encouraging him to destroy them. The other parts of his Fortune he left to his two Sisters, (who were *Executrices*) which was but small, he having just before his Sickness purchased one Annuity of 30 Pounds *per annum*, none of which he ever liv'd to receive, and another of 12*l.* *per annum*. Of his Coins and Medals, which were many and curious, some came into the Hands of the ingenious Dr. *Wood*, who gave them to *New Coll. Library*, others were given to the *Schools Gallery*, and many Silver and Gold ones Sold.

He was as to corporal Endowments of a brown Complexion, inclining to fairness, comely, very tall and thin, but of large Bones, and of a hail strong Constitution, negligent in his Apparel, Thoughtful, if not melancholy, but very diverting when he lik'd a Conversation.

As to his affection to the Papists, whoever reads the Lives of *Beckinson*, *Chiadsey*, *Bonner*, *Harding* and *Campion*, may be himself a judge of the Usage they have met from his Pen; one reason of suspicion was, his seldom frequenting the Church for some Years, which was occasion'd by a Deafness springing from an imposthume, in His Youthful Days, but when his Religion was questioned, he would receive the Holy Eucharist on high Festivals, according to the Church of *England*, in small Country Parish-Churches, where there was little Company, as particularly at *Cowley*, and

(a) Tho. Tanner, D.D. Chancellor of Norwich.

16 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

Eisle, from which last place he brought a Certificate. On this Head he would frequently say, *That in the Reigns of K. Charles II. and K. James II. when Popery was thought to be so much favour'd, the World would call him a Presbyterian.* So that it was resolv'd, he should never be on the right side of the Hedge. As to his manner of Life, it was almost Ascetical, Solitary and Lonesome. He was much addicted to Musick, and understood the Theory of it very well. He was averse to Matrimony, and had seldom a Companion, either at Study, Walks, or Meals, insomuch that he Din'd always in his own Upper-Chamber for above 30 Years together, he desir'd no Preferment, but was contented with his own moderate Fortune, and few Acquaintance, which were some of the greatest Men of those times, as *Sr. William Dugdale* (to whom he sent 16 Sheets of Corrections, and more Additions, to his *Baronage of England*, (2) collected from Records and other Authorities.) *Tho. Smith*, D.D. sometime of *Magdalen Coll.* a Learned, Conscientious, and Worthy Divine: *Dr. Plott*, *Mr. Fulman*, *Sr. Ed. Sherburne*, *Mr. John Aubrey*, but above all, the Learned *Mr. Dodwell*, who was a fast Friend to him in all his Troubles, and strove to mollify the *Earl of Clarendon*, which he gratefully remember'd to his end: And that Exemplar of Learning and Modesty (two Qualities seldom joyn'd) *Mr. Ed. Llywd*, late Superior-Bedle of Divinity, which renders his Works the less liable to Suspicion. His Correspondence indeed was so large, that the very Postage of Letters cost him considerably weekly. His Company was so much sought after by all Noblemen, Gentlemen, or Foreigners, who came to visit this University, that he was continually (though against his own Genius) sent for to show the Rarities, and satisfy Strangers with his Conversation, in things concerning *Oxford*. He was indefatigable in consulting Records, Cathedral, Collegiate, and

(a) In 2 Tomes, Printed in Folio, Lond. 1676.

Parochial-Registers, the Works of Authors, in Print and Manuscripts, the Prerogative, and Herald's Office, Inscriptions, Epitaphs, &c. What he could not get at by his own Means, he enquir'd after by Letters, and received his Accounts from Persons, no ways Contemptible; nor did some Great Men think it derogatory to their Quality, to transmit him no inconsiderable Materials, and Assistances; and so exact was he, that least there should be any Mistakes (though some there are I must confess, owing to his Friends carelessness, which I have heard he himself intended hereafter to to correct) he wrote to different Persons on the same Topick. He very narrowly observed Men and Things (though Personally known but to few) and would give most Men a better account of themselves, than they were able (unless by recollection) to do; he would even recite to them several Passages of their Lives, Educations, Kindred, Marriages, and Fortune in the World, and would frequently surprize mean Persons on those Heads. He was altogether of that Orator's opinion (a) who says, *Nescire quid antea quam natus sit acciderit, est semper esse puerum*. What was truly said of Stow, (b) may be fairly apply'd to our Author Mr. Wood, viz. *That he never writ any thing, either for malice, fear, or favour, nor to seek his own particular Gain or Vain-glory, and that his only pains and care was to write Truth*.

To conclude all: He is frequently Stiled, in the Catalogue of the MSS. in the Bodleian and other Libraries, *Antonius a Wood Antiquarius memorabilis* (c). *Antiquarius Diligentissimus*, *Antonius a Wood* (d). By another (e) ingenious Author, *Antiquarius peritissimus*; by another, (f) who has brought to light many curious

(a) Cicero de Oratore in lib.

(b) Stow's Annals continued by Edm. Hawes 1631. pag. 811.

(c) Catalogi MSS. in Biblioth. Angliæ & Hiberniæ, Oxon 1697. pag. 371.

(d) Ibid

(e) *Angliæ Notitia, sive, Præsens Status Angliæ succinctè enucleatus* a Tho. Wood, (L.L.D.) pag 191.

(f) *Ductor Historicus, or a short System of Universal History*, Vol. 2d. Oxon. 1704. pag. 292.

18 The Life of Mr. *Anthony a Wood*, &c.

Pieces of Antiquity, and has deserved well of the Learned World; he is term'd, *That industrious Antiquary*, and elsewhere (a) speaking of the unanswerable Arguments made use of by him in the defence of the Antiquity of the *University of Oxford*, he has these Words: *Since the most industrious Mr. Anth. a Wood, has so clearly vindicated the Antiquity of Oxford, and the Cantabrigians have not vouchsafed to give an Answer as yet to one Argument alledge'd by him, &c.* He has even extorted the Epithets of *Honest* and *Industrious* from one (b) who takes a pleasure in finding all the Faults he can in Him.

(a) Spelman's (*Sr. John*) *Life of K. Ælfred*, publish't from the Original in the Bodleian Library, with several considerable Additions, by *Tho. Hearne, M.A.* (of Edmund Hall,) Oxon. 1709. pag. 177.

(b) *The Historical Library*, Vol. 2d. pag. 215. 231.

F I N I S.

the
terri-
ble
the
ese
od,
the
as
ven
om
ults

the
ons,